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to indispensable journals and the purchase of books absolutely needed by our students has been provided for during the past year, yet with the exercise of the strictest economy the amount derived from the library funds has been overdrawn. It is, therefore, evident that a liberal increase in the pecuniary resources of the library is needed if we are to maintain in the future our merited reputation of having the best collection of scientific works in America. Three times the amount now at our disposal could readily be spent annually without involving the slightest waste or extravagance.

All the portraits of presidents and benefactors have been carefully examined by a reliable expert since my last report. They have been cleaned, varnished and, when necessary, as was the case in several instances, rebacked with canvas. The appearance of this interesting collection of paintings has thus been much improved.

We are indebted to Mrs. Ellen M. Carpenter for a good portrait in oil of Mr. Geo. W. Carpenter by whom the Academy was served most efficiently as Treasurer for thirty-four consecutive years.

An interesting oil portrait of Mr. Augustus E. Jessup, the beneficent founder of the Academy's Jessup Fund, has been received from his daughter Mrs. Bloomfield H. Moore, to whose intelligent liberality the Academy is also deeply indebted. The painting represents Mr. Jessup in early manhood and therefore differs widely from the one given to the Academy by his children several years ago. The recent gift formerly belonged to Peale's museum and is now hung in the Librarian's room.

I have received efficient assistance in the current work of the library from Mr. William J. Fox and also, during a portion of the year, from Signor E. Fronani, the greater part of whose time, however, as will be seen by the report of the Recording Secretary, was devoted to the work of another department.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDW. J. NOLAN,  
*Librarian.*

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#### REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

It has been the endeavor of the Curators throughout the year to pay particular attention to the examination and renovation of the more perishable collections and to the replacement in the museum of such

specimens or collections as had been temporarily removed or were stored away so as to be inaccessible to the student.

As a result most of the collections are now in an excellent state of preservation.

Lack of space has prevented the proper systematic arrangement of the specimens and in many cases has necessitated the crowding of the collections to a degree entirely inconsistent with their proper display. This state of affairs has continually been an obstacle in the way of the work of the Curators for many years past, but will now very soon be remedied by the opening of the new museum building which will furnish ample space for the proper display of the various collections.

During the past year, although no general rearrangement of the collections was possible, a slight change has been made in the position of some of the cases on the lower floor of the museum and by this means many of the specimens have been displayed to much better advantage.

The collection of fossil fishes has been removed from the upright cases and a series of typical specimens displayed in the flat table cases, while the remainder have been arranged in glass-covered drawers immediately beneath, where they are readily accessible for study.

By this arrangement two large upright cases have been made available for the display of the additions to the mounted collection of mammals. A handsome case presented by the Women's Silk Culture Association has been used for the same purpose.

A great deal of important work has been accomplished in the ornithological department during the year. Almost the entire mounted collection of water birds, numbering about 2,000 specimens, has been thoroughly gone over and all desirable specimens remounted and renovated, while many of the duplicates and unsightly specimens have been unmounted and arranged in drawers with the study series of skins.

This work has immensely improved the appearance of the collection and will ensure the preservation of the specimens for many years to come.

A more detailed account of the work in this department will be found in the report of the Ornithological Section.

Mr. McCadden, the taxidermist of the Academy, in addition to

his work in remounting the ornithological collection, has prepared and mounted upwards of 50 birds, mammals and osteological specimens received during the year, thereby adding greatly to the value of these departments.

Several hundred jars of reptiles and fishes which had been stored in the cellar have been examined, relabeled and placed in their proper places in the museum, and a number of osteological specimens which had been removed from their cases have been restored to the museum.

The greater part of the Pennsylvania State Geological Survey collection, which has been stored away in boxes ever since its presentation to the Academy, has been unpacked and placed in drawers in the new cases which were procured for the connecting museum over the lecture hall. For the present these specimens have been arranged according to the State Survey list.

This work is of great importance as it renders this valuable collection, which it has hitherto been impossible to consult, readily accessible to the student.

Early in the year a series of uniform catalogues were procured by the Curators and the attempt made to form a systematic catalogue of all the departments of the museum, something that has hitherto only been attempted in one or two branches. The work entailed in an undertaking of this kind is enormous, and it will be several years at least before it will be possible to bring it to completion.

Throughout the past year, however, all the accessions except in a few special collections have been systematically numbered and catalogued so that the preservation of the data relating to them will be ensured even though the labels become misplaced or lost. Apart from cataloguing the accessions, the work in this direction has mainly been that of verifying and copying such old catalogues as were in existence.

In copying the catalogues of the mammalia it was found necessary to renumber the entire series of osteological specimens in order to bring them into sequence with the mounted specimens and skins. Heretofore they were numbered in different series, which caused much confusion. At the same time all the separate bones of the disarticulated skeletons were numbered so as to prevent their becoming mixed and their identity lost. The importance of this work can readily be appreciated.

Besides copying the old catalogue, work has been begun on a catalogue of the general collection of minerals. Considerable progress has been made with the ornithological catalogue which was begun several years ago.

In connection with our present catalogues a new system of labels has been adopted, each bearing the Academy's name and the catalogue number of the specimen. This is of especial importance when specimens are loaned for study as it prevents their loss or confusion.

The collections of birds and mammals have also been carefully examined and the cases provided with insecticides.

The additions to the various departments of the museum during the year have been especially noteworthy.

The most extensive collection received was the entire private museum of the late George W. Carpenter, presented by his widow. This included an extensive series of minerals and mounted birds. Among the latter may be mentioned a specimen of the extinct Labrador duck. A collection of mollusca and many archaeological and anatomical specimens were included in the gift.

The collection of Indian remains, pottery and implements from the mounds of Volusia County, Florida, generously presented by Mr. Clarence B. Moore, is of exceptional interest, being largely unique. This collection has been labeled and arranged by Mr. Moore and his assistants in cases in the new room over the lecture hall, which has been open to the public since September 1st.

Another valuable accession was a fine series of crania of ancient Hawaiians presented by Dr. C. Newlin Pierce.

Many important additions to the collection of mammals, birds and reptiles have been received from the Zoological Society of Philadelphia serving to render these departments more nearly complete. Foremost among these may be mentioned fine specimens of Burchell's and Chapman's zebras. The Liberian Commissioners to the Columbian Exposition have contributed a fine specimen of the rare Liberian hippopotamus, which has been mounted by the Academy's taxidermist. The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has continued to add to the collection of local birds and nests which it presented some years ago.

The liberality of friends of the Academy has enabled the Curators to acquire by purchase several valuable collections. Among these

are the Rhoads collection of British Columbian birds, comprising about 1,000 specimens, an important collection of birds and mammals from southern California made by R. B. Herron, and the Morelet collection of mollusca.

Through the aid of friends of the Academy, Professor E. D. Cope was also enabled, in company with Dr. A. P. Brown, to carry on explorations in the fossil beds of Dakota and Kansas during the summer. He brought back many valuable specimens which will greatly enrich the department of vertebrate paleontology. These specimens will be placed in the museum as soon as they can be properly mounted.

As heretofore, the Academy's museum has furnished aid to many students and specialists. Besides those who have consulted the collections, specimens have been loaned during the year to Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Harrison Allen, Mr. William Brewster, Dr. L. Stejneger, Mr. G. D. Harris and Professor W. B. Clarke.

Certain collections which are not arranged in the museum proper have, as in former years, been under the charge of special conservators and to these the Curators desire to express their thanks—to Mr. John H. Redfield, Conservator of the Herbarium; Mr. W. W. Jefferies, Curator of the Vaux Collections, and Dr. Henry Skinner, Conservator of the Entomological Section. Reports on the condition of these collections will be found in the special reports from the Sections.

The thanks of the Curators are also due to Mr. W. W. Jefferies for his valuable assistance in the labeling and arranging of the Carpenter collection of minerals, to Mr. Clarence B. Moore, for the careful arrangement and labeling of his archaeological collection, and to Messrs. Woolman, Schultz and Boyer for valuable assistance in cataloguing the collections of diatoms.

Messrs. H. G. Ives, J. E. Richardson and H. Y. Pennell, students on the Jessup Fund, have rendered important aid during the year in the departments of mineralogy and ornithology.

Approved by the Curators at a meeting held Dec. 20th, 1893.

SAMUEL G. DIXON,

*Executive Curator.*